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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Klekamp et al.

Serial No. : Unassigned Art Unit: Unknown

Filed : Herewith Examiner: Unknown

For : BIREFRINGENCE-FREE PASSIVE OPTICAL COMPONENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified continuation application on the merits, please amend the application as follows.

**In the specification:**

Page 1, line 1: Prior to the heading Background of the Invention, please insert the following:

--This application is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/933,731, filed August 22, 2001, which claims priority to German Application No. 100 41 174.6, filed August 23, 2000. --